

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 13822

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, IT
SUBJECT: MEETING WITH PRIME MINISTER ANDREOTTI

1. I HAD A BRIEF MEETING WITH PRIME MINISTER GIULIO ANDREOTTI THIS AFTERNOON FOR AN EXCHANGE OF VIEWS PRIOR TO MY DEPARTURE ON VACATION AUGUST 1. DISCUSSION FOCUSED ON HIS IMPRESSIONS OF ECONOMIC SUMMIT AND ITALIAN ECONOMIC PROSPECT. HE MADE THE FOLLOWING POINTS.

2. THE ECONOMIC SUMMIT WAS A SUCCESS IN THAT IT PRODUCED A SERIES OF SIGNIFICANT RECIPROCAL COMMITMENTS FROM THE PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES WHICH ENHANCE SUBSTANTIALLY THE INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC PROSPECT.

3. PRESIDENT CARTER'S POSITION ON PROPOSED EUROPEAN MONETARY AGREEMENT WAS APPRECIATED PARTICULARLY HIS REQUEST THAT U.S. BE CONSULTED FULLY BEFORE FINAL DETAILS WERE AGREED. IN ANDREOTTI'S VIEW, AGREEMENT ON A SPECIFIC PLAN IS LIKELY BY DECEMBER MEETING OF EUROPEAN COUNCIL UNLESS BRITISH ELECTION GETS IN THE WAY. FOR POLITICAL REASONS ITALY HAS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PROJECT EVEN THOUGH IT WILL
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REQUIRE A TRANSITIONAL PERIOD BEFORE ACCEPTING FULLY THE EXCHANGE RATE COMMITMENTS.

4. ANDREOTTI REGARDS AS SIGNIFICANT THE DECISION TO WITHHOLD AIR SERVICES FROM COUNTRIES FAILING TO COOPERATE IN THE CONTROL OF HIJACKING AS SIGNIFICATN. IN RESPONSE TO MY REQUEST HE AGREED TO MAKE DIPLOMATIC APPROACHES

TO ENCOURAGE OTHER COUNTRIES TO ADHERE.

5. AS TO ITALIAN ECONOMIC PROSPECTS, ANDREOTTI HOPES TO HAVE AN ECONOMIC PROGRAM IN PLACE THAT WILL SATISFY THE IMF WHEN ITS TEAM RETURNS IN OCTOBER TO NEGOTIATE A STANDBY. HE BELIEVES THE TRADE UNIONS ARE SHOWING " SOME SIGN OF REASONABLENESS". HOWEVER, IT WOULD BE A MISTAKE TO PRESS THE SCALLA MOBILE ISSUE NOW SINCE THAT WOULD ONLY ENCOURAGE THE UNIONS TO MAKE GRATER DEMANDS IN THE WAGE NEGOTIATIONS THIS FALL. ONCE THESE MULTI YEAR NEGOTIATIONS ARE FINISHED, IT WILL BE POSSIBLE TO RETURN TO THE SCALA MOBILE. QUESTION.

6. ITALY'S COMMITMENT AT THE ECONOMIC SUMMIT TO INCREASE GROWTH BY 1.5 PERCENT CAN BE IMPLEMENTED UNDER EXISTING LAWS. HOWEVER, IF NEW MEASURES PROVE NECESSARY BY NEXT SPRING TO ACHIEVE THIS TARGET THEY WILL BE TAKEN AT THAT TIME. GARDNER

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